



Bureau of Labor Statistics: A Sampling of Employment and Unemployment Programs

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Overview

- Major BLS programs
- BLS employment and unemployment programs
- [Website](#) and data retrieval
 - [Inflation Calculator](#)
 - Java Database Query Tool
 - [QCEW State and County Map Application](#)
 - [Location Quotient Calculator](#)



Major BLS Programs

- 7 Principal Federal Economic Indicators (PFEIs)
 - Unemployment rate and nonfarm payroll employment
 - Consumer Price Index (CPI)
 - Real Earnings
 - Producer Price Indexes (PPI)
 - Import/Export Price Indexes (MXP)
 - Employment Cost Index (ECI)
 - Labor Productivity and Costs (LPC)
- http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/inforeg/statpolicy/pei_calendar_2011.pdf (2011 schedule)
- <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/inforeg/statpolicy/pfei-schedule-of-release-dates-2012.pdf> (2012 schedule)



Principal Federal Economic Indicators (cont'd)

- Unemployment rate and nonfarm payroll employment
 - Monthly national data on:
 - Labor force and unemployment by demographic and economic characteristics (CPS)
 - Employment, hours, and earnings by industry (CES)
 - BLS Commissioner gives a statement before the Joint Economic Committee of Congress in conjunction with the [Employment Situation](#) news release on the first Friday of the month



Principal Federal Economic Indicators (cont'd)

- Consumer Price Index (CPI)
 - Monthly average changes over time in the prices of a representative basket of goods and services purchased by urban consumers
 - Three types of indexes: CPI-U, CPI-W, and C-CPI-U
 - CPI-U, as the principal gauge of inflation, affects the incomes of millions:
 - Social Security (52 million)
 - Food stamps (45.8 million)
 - School lunch program (31 million)
 - Military and civilian government pensioners (5 million)



Principal Federal Economic Indicators (cont'd)

- Real Earnings
 - Monthly data on average weekly earnings from the payroll reports of private nonfarm establishments (CES), adjusted for inflation (CPI-U)
 - Only PFEI derived from two other PFEIs



Principal Federal Economic Indicators (cont'd)

- Producer Price Indexes (PPI)
 - Monthly average changes over time in the selling prices received by domestic producers of goods and services (inflation at an earlier stage)
 - About 8,000 indexes, tabulated by:
 - Industry and product or service category
 - Commodity type and end use
 - Stage of processing
 - Used for escalating sales contracts, comparison of input/output costs, and inventory valuation



Principal Federal Economic Indicators (cont'd)

- Import/Export Price Indexes (MXP)
 - Monthly relative changes over time in the prices of U.S. imports and exports
 - Used primarily to deflate Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) foreign trade statistics
 - Monthly U.S. trade statistics
 - Balance of Payment Account (BPA)
 - Foreign sector of National Income and Product Accounts (BIPA)
 - Also used in exchange rate analysis and for monitoring terms of trade



Principal Federal Economic Indicators (cont'd)

- Employment Cost Index (ECI)
 - Quarterly index-based indicator measuring changes over time in wages, bonuses, and benefits on a per-hour basis
 - Wages constitute, on average, 70 percent of employment costs, while benefits average 30 percent



Principal Federal Economic Indicators (cont'd)

- Productivity and Costs (LPC)
 - Quarterly labor productivity, which measures output per hour of labor
 - Quarterly multifactor productivity, which measures output per unit of combined inputs, consisting of labor and capital, and, in some cases, intermediate inputs such as fuel



Employment and Unemployment Programs

- Current Population Survey (CPS)
 - Monthly survey of about 60,000 households providing comprehensive demographic and economic characteristic data on the labor force, employment, unemployment, and persons not in the labor force
 - Longest running social scientific endeavor in the history of mankind, dating back to the 1940s
 - Key points about CPS employment and unemployment:
 - Employment classification is broader than the payroll jobs concept measured by the CES
 - No requirement of receipt of unemployment insurance (UI) benefits for unemployed classification



Employment and Unemployment Programs (cont'd)

- [Local Area Unemployment Statistics \(LAUS\)](#)
 - Monthly and annual labor force, employment, and unemployment data for over 7,300 geographic areas
 - Subnational detail of the topside measures from the Current Population Survey (CPS)
 - LAUS is not a survey, and no demographic characteristic data are available through the LAUS methodologies
 - There is, however, a related dataset of State and area tabulations based on annual subsamples of the CPS



Employment and Unemployment Programs (cont'd)

- [Mass Layoff Statistics](#) (MLS)
 - Monthly data on events where 50+ initial claims for unemployment insurance are filed against a single employer during a 5-week period
 - Quarterly extended mass layoffs where private sector nonfarm employers have 50+ workers separated for 31+ days, including by reason and movement of work



Employment and Unemployment Programs (cont'd)

- [Current Employment Statistics](#) (CES)
 - Monthly survey of about 410,000 worksites collecting nonfarm payroll data by industry on employment, hours, and earnings
 - [National](#) and [State & metropolitan area](#) data are available



Employment and Unemployment Programs (cont'd)

- Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)
 - Quarterly count of employment and wages reported by employers covered by the unemployment insurance (UI) system (98 percent of U.S. jobs)
 - Data are available for counties, metropolitan and micropolitan areas, States, and the Nation by detailed industry



Employment and Unemployment Programs (cont'd)

- Business Employment Dynamics (BDM)
 - Quarterly data measuring gross job gains and losses from the QCEW
 - BDM insight into the U.S. labor market: net job growth is a tip-of-the-iceberg phenomenon
 - In Q1 2011, 6,338,000 jobs were added at expanding and new establishments
 - 6,086,000 jobs were lost at contracting and closing establishments
 - Net gain of 252,000 was just 2.0 percent of the total job turnover



Employment and Unemployment Programs (cont'd)

- Job Openings and Labor Turnover Statistics (JOLTS)
 - Monthly data on job openings, hires, and separations, as direct demand-side indicators of the labor market
 - Even in very weak labor market conditions, quits have never constituted less than 38 percent of total separations
 - In recent months, the historical norm of has returned for the “quits” and “layoffs and discharges” shares of total separations (49 percent vs. 42 percent for September 2011)



Employment and Unemployment Programs (cont'd)

- Occupational Employment Statistics (OES)
 - Employment and wage estimates for over 800 occupations for the Nation, States, and metropolitan areas
 - Also national occupational data for specific industries



Employment and Unemployment Programs (cont'd)

- Employment Projections (EP)
 - Information about the labor market for the Nation as a whole 10 years in the future
 - Occupational Outlook Handbook is a major publication
 - College students trying to decide on a career path
 - People looking to change careers



Employment and Unemployment Programs (cont'd)

- [American Time Use Survey](#) (ATUS)
 - Annual data on amount of time people spend doing various activities, such as paid work, childcare, volunteering, and socializing
 - See [How Different Groups Spend Their Day](#) on the *New York Times* website for an interactive graphic of ATUS data from 2008



Employment and Unemployment Programs (cont'd)

- National Longitudinal Surveys (NLS)
 - Information at multiple points in time on the labor market activities and other significant life events of several groups of men and women
 - The only panel data that BLS maintains
 - More than 6,000 NLS-based journal articles, working papers, monographs, and dissertations over its 40-year history



LAUS Website

- Program Overview
- News Releases
- Database Search Tools
- Tables and Maps
- Documentation
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Contact Information
- Latest Numbers



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